

R H O D E - I S L A N D C H A R T E R,

Granted by King CHARLES II. in the Fourteenth Year
of his Reign.

Quintadecima pars Patentium Anno Regni Regis CAROLI Secundi Quintodecimo.

CHARLES the Second, by the Grace of God, &c. To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting. Whereas We have been informed by the humble Petition of Our trusty and well beloved Subjects, John Clarke, on the behalf of Benjamin Arnold, William Brenton, William Codrington, Nicolas Easton, William Boulton, John Porter, John Smith, Samuel Gorton, John Weekes, Roger Williams, Thomas Olney, Gregory Dexter, John Cogeshall, Joseph Clarke, Randall Houlden, John Greene, John Roome, Samuel Wildbore, William Field, James Barker, Richard Tew, Thomas Harris, and William Dyre, and the rest of the purchasers, and free inhabitants of Our Island called Rhode-Island, and the rest of the Colony of Providence Plantations, in the Narraganset-Bay in New-England in America, That they pursuing with peace, and loyal minds, their sober, serious, and religious intentions, of godly edifying themselves, and one another, in the holy Christian faith and worship as they were persuaded, together with the gaining over and conversion of the poor ignorant Indian natives, in those parts of America, to the sincere profession and obedience of the same faith and worship, did not only by the consent and good encouragement of Our royal progenitors, transport themselves out of this kingdom of England into America; but also since their arrival there, after their first settlement amongst other Our subjects in those parts, for the avoiding of discord, and those many evils which were likely to ensue upon those Our subjects, not being able to bear in those remote parts their different apprehensions in religious concerns; and in pursuance of the aforesaid ends, did once again leave their desirable stations and habitations, and with excessive labour and travel, hazard and charge, did transplant themselves into the midst of the Indians natives, who (as We are informed) are the most potent Princes and People of all that country; whereby the good Providence of God (from whom the Plantations have taken their name) upon their labour and industry, they have not only been preserved to admiration, but have increased and prospered, and are seized and possessed, by purchase and consent of the said natives, to their full content, of such lands, islands, rivers, harbours and roads, as are very convenient, both for plantations, and also for building of ships, supply of pipe-staves, and other merchan-

dize, and which lies very commodious in many respects for commerce, and to accommodate our Southern plantations, and may much advance the trade of this Our realm, and greatly enlarge the territories thereof; they having by near neighbourhood to, and friendly Society with, the great body of the Narraganset Indians, given them encouragement, of their own accord, to subject themselves, their people and lands, unto Us; whereby (as is hoped) there may in time, by the blessing of God upon their endeavours, be laid a sure foundation of happiness to all America: And whereas in their humble Address: they have freely declared, That it is much on their hearts (if they be permitted) to hold forth a lively experiment, that a most flourishing civil state may stand, and best be maintained, and that among Our English subjects, with a full liberty in religious concerns, and that true piety, rightly grounded upon gospel principles, will give the best and greatest security to Sovereignty, and will lay in the hearts of men the strongest obligations to true loyalty: Now know ye, That We being willing to encourage the hopeful undertaking of Our said loyal and loving subjects, and to secure them in the free exercise and enjoyment of all their civil and religious rights appertaining to them as Our loving subjects; and to preserve unto them that liberty in the true Christian faith and worship of God, which they have sought with so much travel, and with peaceable minds and loyal subjection to Our royal progenitors, and Ourselves, to enjoy: And because some of the people and inhabitants of the same Colony cannot in their private opinion conform to the publick exercise of religion, according to the liturgy, form, and ceremonies of the Church of England, or take or subscribe the oaths and articles made and established in that behalf; and for that the same, by reason of the remote distances of those places, will, as We hope, be no breach of the unity and uniformity established in this nation, have therefore thought fit, and do hereby publish, grant, ordain and declare, That Our Royal Will and Pleasure is, That no person within the said Colony, at any time hereafter, shall be any-wise molested, punished, disquieted, or called in question, for any differences in opinion in matters of religion, and do not actually disturb the civil peace of Our said Colony; but that all and every person and persons may, from time to time, and at all

all times hereafter, freely and fully have and enjoy his and their own judgments and consciences, in matters of religious concerns, throughout the tract of land, hereafter mentioned, they behaving themselves peaceably and quietly, and not using this liberty to licentiousness and profaneness, nor to the civil injury or outward disturbance of others, any law, statute or clause, therein contained, or to be contained, usage or custom of this realm, to the contrary hereof, in any-wise notwithstanding. And that they may be in the better capacity to defend themselves in their just rights and liberties, against all the enemies of the Christian faith, and others, in all respects; We have further thought fit, and at the humble petition of the persons aforesaid, are graciously pleased to declare, That they shall have and enjoy the benefit of Our late Act of Indemnity, and free pardon, as the rest of Our subjects in other Our dominions and territories have; and to create and make them a body politick or corporate, with the powers and privileges herein after-mentioned: And accordingly, Our Will and Pleasure is, and of Our especial grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, We have ordained, constituted and declared, and by these presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, do ordain, constitute and declare, That they the said William Brenton, William Codrington, Nicolas Easton, Benedict Arnold, William Boulston, John Porter, Samuel Gorton, John Smith, John Weekes, Roger Williams, Thomas Olney, Gregory Dexter, John Cogeshall, Joseph Clarke, Randall Houlden, John Greene, John Roome, William Dyre, Samuel Wildbore, Richard Tew, William Field, Thomas Harris, James Barker, Rainsborow, Williams, and John Nickson, and all such others as now are, or hereafter shall be admitted, free of the Company and Society of Our Colony of Providence plantations, in the Narraganset-Bay, in New-England, shall be from time to time, and for ever hereafter, a body corporate and politick, in fact and name, by the name of the Governor and Company of the English Colony of Rhode-Island, and Providence Plantations, in New-England, in America; and that by the same name they and their Successors shall and may have perpetual succession, and shall and may be persons able and capable in the law to sue and be sued, to plead and be impleaded, to answer and to be answered unto, to defend, and to be defended, in all and singular suits, causes, quarrels, matters, actions, and things, of what kind or nature soever; and also to have, take, possess, acquire, and purchase lands, tenements or hereditaments, or any goods or chattels, and the same to lease, grant, demise, alien, bargain, sell and dispose of, at their own Will and Pleasure, as other Our Liege people of this Our realm of England, or any corporation, or body politick within the same, may lawfully do; and further, That they the said Governor and Company, and their Successors, shall and may, for ever hereafter, have a common Seal, to serve and use for all matters, causes, things, and affairs whatsoever, of them and their Successors, and the same Seal to alter, change, break, and make new from time to time, at their Will and Pleasure, as they shall think fit. And further, We will and ordain, and by these pre-

sents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, do declare and appoint, That for the better ordering and managing of the affairs and business of the said Company and their Successors, there shall be one Governor, one Deputy Governor, and ten Assistants, to be from time to time constituted, elected and chosen, out of the Freemen of the said Company, for the time being, in such manner and form, as is hereafter in these Presents expressed; which said Officers shall apply themselves to take care for the best disposing and ordering of the general business and affairs of and concerning the lands and hereditaments herein after-mentioned to be granted, and the Plantation thereof, and the government of the people there. And for the better execution of Our Royal Pleasure herein, We do for us, Our Heirs and Successors, assign, name, constitute and appoint, the aforesaid Benedict Arnold to be the first and present Governor of the said Company, and the said William Brenton to be the Deputy Governor, and the said William Boulston, John Porter, Roger Williams, Thomas Olney, John Smith, John Greene, John Cogeshall, James Barker, William Field, and Joseph Clarke, to be the ten present Assistants of the said Company; to continue in the said several Offices respectively, until the first Wednesday which shall be in the month of May now next coming. And further, We will, and by these presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, do ordain and grant, That the Governor of the said Company, for the time being, or in his absence, by occasion of sickness, or otherwise, by his leave or permission, the Deputy Governor for the time being, shall and may, from time to time, upon all occasions, give order for the assembling of the said Company, and calling them together, to consult and advise of the business and affairs of the said Company: And that for ever hereafter, twice in every year, (that is to say) on every first Wednesday in the month of May, and on every last Wednesday in October, or oftener, in case it shall be requisite, the Assistants, and such of the Freemen of the said Company, not exceeding six persons, for Newport, four persons for each of the respective towns of Providence, Portsmouth, and Warwick, and two persons for each other place, town or city, who shall be from time to time thereunto elected or deputed by the major part of the Freemen of the respective places, towns or places for which they shall be so elected or deputed, shall have a General Meeting or Assembly, then and there to consult, advise and determine, in and about the affairs and business of the said Company and Plantations. And further, We do of Our especial grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, give and grant unto the said Governor and Company of the English Colony of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations in New-England in America, and their Successors, That the Governor, or in his absence, or by his permission, the Deputy Governor of the said Company, for the time being, the Assistants and such of the Freemen of the said Company, as shall be so aforesaid elected or deputed, or so many of them as shall be present at such Meeting or Assembly, as aforesaid, shall be called the General Assembly; and that they, or the greatest part of them then present, whereof the Governor, or Deputy

puty Governor, and six of the Assistants at least, to be seven; shall have, and have hereby given and granted unto them, full power and authority, from time to time, and at all times hereafter, to appoint, alter and change such days, times and places of Meeting, and General Assembly, as they shall think fit; and to chuse, nominate and appoint such and so many persons as they shall think fit, and shall be willing to accept the same, to be free of the said Company, and Body Politick, and them into the same to admit, and to elect, and constitute such Offices and Officers, and to grant such needful commissions as they shall think fit and requisite, for the ordering, managing, and dispatching of the affairs of the said Governor and Company, and their Successors; and, from time to time, to make, ordain, constitute or repeal, such laws, statutes, orders and ordinances, forms and ceremonies of Government and Magistracy, as to them shall seem meet, for the good and welfare of the said Company, and for the government and ordering of the lands and hereditaments herein after-mentioned to be granted, and of the people that do or at any time hereafter shall inhabit, or be within the same; so as such laws, ordinances and constitutions, so made, be not contrary and repugnant unto, but, as near as may, agreeable to the laws of this Our realm of England, considering the nature and constitution of the place and people there; and also, to appoint, order and direct, erect and settle such places and courts of jurisdiction, for the hearing and determining of all actions, cases, matters and things, happening within the said Colony and plantation, and which shall be in dispute, and depending there, as they shall think fit; and also to distinguish and set forth the several names and titles, duties, powers and limits, of each court, office and officer, superior and inferior; and also, to contrive and appoint such forms of oaths and attestations not repugnant, but, as near as may be, agreeable as aforesaid, to the laws and statutes of this Our realm, as are convenient and requisite, with respect to the due administration of justice, and due execution and discharge of all offices and places of trust, by the persons that shall be therein concerned; and also to regulate and order the way and manner of all elections to offices and places of trust, and to prescribe, limit and distinguish the number and bounds of all places, towns and cities, with the limits and bounds herein after mentioned, and not herein particularly named, who have or shall have the power of electing and sending of freemen to the said General Assembly; and also to order, direct and authorize, the imposing of lawful and reasonable fines, mulcts, imprisonments, and executing other punishments, pecuniary and corporal, upon offenders and delinquents, according to the course of other corporations, within this Our kingdom of England; and again, to alter, revoke, annul or pardon, under their common seal, or otherwise, such fines, mulcts, imprisonments, sentences, judgments and condemnations, as shall be thought fit; and to direct, rule, order and dispose of all other matters and things, and particularly that which relates to the making of purchases of the native Indians, as to them shall seem meet; whereby Our said people and inhabitants in the said

plantations, may be so religiously, peaceably and civilly governed, as that by their good life, and orderly conversation, they may win and invite the native Indians of the country to the knowledge and obedience of the only true God, and saviour of mankind; willing, commanding and requiring, and by these presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, ordaining and appointing, that all such laws, statutes, orders and ordinances, instructions, impositions and directions, as shall be so made by the Governor, Deputy, Assistants and freemen, or such number of them, as aforesaid, and published in writing, under their common seal, shall be carefully and duly observed, kept, performed and put in execution, according to the true intent and meaning of the same: And these Our letters patents, or the duplicate or exemplification thereof, shall be to all and every such officers, superior or inferior, from time to time, for the putting of the same orders, laws, statutes, ordinances, instructions and directions, in due execution, against Us, Our Heirs and successors, a sufficient warrant and discharge: and further, Our will and pleasure is, and We do hereby, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, establish and ordain, That yearly, once in the year, for ever hereafter, namely the aforesaid Wednesday in May, and at the town of Newport, or elsewhere, if urgent occasion do require, the Governor, Deputy Governor, and assistants of the said Company, and other Officers of the said Company, or such of them as the General Assembly shall think fit, shall be in the said General court or Assembly, to be held from that day or time, newly chosen for the year ensuing, by greater part of the said company, for the time being, as shall be then and there present; and if it shall happen, that the present Governor, Deputy Governor, and Assistants, by these presents appointed, or any such as shall hereafter be newly chosen into their rooms, or any of them, or any other the officers of the said company, shall die, or be removed from his or their several offices or places, before the said general day of election, (whom we do hereby declare, for any misdemeanour or default, to be removeable by the Governor, Assistants and Company, or such greater part of them, in any of the said public courts to be assembled, as aforesaid) that then, and in every such case, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Governor, Deputy-Governor, Assistants and Company aforesaid, or such greater part of them, so to be assembled, as is aforesaid, in any of their assemblies, to proceed to a new election of one or more of their company, in the room or place, rooms or places, of such officer or officers so dying or removed, according to their directions: And immediately upon and after such election or elections made, of such Governor, Deputy Governor, Assistant or Assistants, or any other Officer of the said Company, in manner and form aforesaid, the Authority, Office and Power, before given to the former Governor, Deputy Governor, and other Officer and Officers so removed, in whose stead and place new shall be chosen, shall, as to him and them, and every of them respectively, cease and determine; provided always, and Our Will and Pleasure is, That as well such as are by these presents appointed to be the present Governor, Deputy Governor, and

Assistants.

Assistants of the said Company, as those which shall succeed them, and all other Officers to be appointed and chosen as aforesaid, shall before the undertaking the execution of the said offices and places respectively, give their solemn engagement by oath or otherwise for the due and faithful performance of their duties in their several offices and places, before such person or persons as are by these presents hereafter appointed to take and receive the same; (that is to say) the said Benedict Arnold, who is herein before nominated and appointed the present Governor of the said company, shall give the aforesaid engagement before William Brenton, or any two of the said Assistants of the said Company, unto whom We do, by these presents, give full power and authority to require and receive the same; and the said William Brenton, who is hereby before nominated and appointed the present Deputy Governor of the said Company, shall give the aforesaid engagement before the said Benedict Arnold, or any two of the Assistants of the said Company, unto whom We do, by these presents, give full power and authority to require and receive the same; and the said William Boulston, John Porter, Roger Williams, Thomas Olney, John Smith, John Greene, John Coggeshall, James Barker, William Field, and Joseph Clarke, who are herein before nominated and appointed the present Assistants of the Company, shall give the said engagement to their offices and places respectively belonging, before the said Benedict Arnold and William Brenton, or one of them, to whom respectively We do hereby give full power and authority to require, administer or receive the same. And further, Our Will and Pleasure is, That all and every other future Governor, or Deputy Governor, to be elected and chosen by virtue of these presents, shall give the said engagement before two or more of the said Assistants of the said Company for the time being, unto whom We do, by these presents, give full power and authority to require, administer or receive the same; and the said Assistants, and every of them, and all and every other Officer or Officers, to be hereafter elected and chosen by virtue of these presents, from time to time, shall give the like engagements to their offices and places respectively belonging, before the Governor, or Deputy Governor, for the time being; unto which said Governor, or Deputy Governor, We do by these presents give full power and authority to require, administer, or receive the same accordingly. And We do likewise, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, give and grant unto the said Governor and Company, and their Successors, by these presents, That for the more peaceable and orderly Government of the said Plantations, it shall and may be lawful for the Governor, Deputy Governor, Assistants, and all other Officers and Ministers, of the said Company, in the Administration of justice, and exercise of Government, in the said Plantations, to use, exercise, and put in execution, such methods, rules, orders, and directions, not being contrary and repugnant to the laws and statutes of this our realm, as has been heretofore given, used, and accustomed in such cases respectively, to be put in practice, until, at the next, or some other General Assembly,

especial provision shall be made and ordained in the cases aforesaid. And We do further, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, give and grant unto the said Governor and Company, and their Successors, by these presents, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Governor, or in his absence the Deputy Governor, and major part of the said Assistants for the time being, at any time, when the said General Assembly is not sitting, to nominate, appoint and constitute such and so many Commanders, Governors, and Military Officers, as to them shall seem requisite, for the leading, conducting, and training up the inhabitants of the said Plantations in martial affairs, and for the defence and safeguard of the said Plantations; and that it shall and may be lawful to and for all and every such Commander, Governor, and Military Officer, that shall be so as aforesaid, or by the Governor, or in his absence the Deputy Governor, and six of the Assistants, and major part of the Freemen of the said Company, present at any General Assemblies, nominated, appointed and constituted, according to the tenor of his and their respective commissions and directions, to assemble, exercise in arms, marshal, array, and put in warlike posture the inhabitants of the said Colony, for their especial defence and safety, and to lead and conduct the said inhabitants, and to encounter, repulse, and resist by force of arms, as well as by sea as by land, and also to kill, slay and destroy, by all fitting ways, enterprizes and means whatsoever, all and every such person or persons, as shall at any time hereafter attempt or enterprize the destruction, invasion, detriment or annoyance of the said inhabitants or Plantations; and to use and exercise the law martial, in such cases only as occasion shall necessarily require; and to take and surprize, by all ways and means whatsoever, all and every such person and persons, with their ship or ships, armour, ammunition, or other goods of such persons as shall in hostile manner invade or attempt the defeating of the said Plantation, or the hurt of the said Company and inhabitants; and upon just causes to invade and destroy the natives, Indians, or other enemies of the said Colony. Nevertheless, Our Will and Pleasure is, and We do hereby declare, to the rest of our Colonies in New-England, That it shall not be lawful for this Our said Colony of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations in America, in New-England, to invade the natives inhabiting within the bounds and limits of their said Colonies, without the knowledge and consent of the said other Colonies. And it is hereby declared, that it shall not be lawful to or for the rest of the Colonies to invade or molest the native Indians, or any other inhabitants inhabiting within the bounds or limits hereafter mentioned, (they having subjected themselves unto Us, and being by Us taken into our special protection) without the knowledge and consent of the Governor and Company of Our Colony of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantation. Also our Will and Pleasure is, and We do hereby declare unto all Christian Kings, Princes and States, That if any person, which shall hereafter be of the said Company or Plantation, or any other by appointment of the said Governor and Company, for the time being, shall at any time

or times hereafter rob or spoil, by sea or land, or do any hurt, or unlawful hostility, to any of the subjects of Us, Our Heirs and Successors, or any of the subjects of any Prince or State, being then in league with Us, Our Heirs and Successors; upon complaint of such injury done to any such Prince or State, or their subjects, We, Our Heirs and Successors, will make open proclamation, within any parts of Our realm of England, fit for that purpose, That the person or persons committing any such robbery or spoil shall, within the time limited by such proclamation, make full restitution or satisfaction of all such injuries done or committed, so as the said Prince, or others so complaining, may be fully satisfied and contented; and if the said person or persons, who shall commit any such robbery or spoil, shall not make satisfaction accordingly within such time so to be limited, That then We, Our Heirs and Successors, will put such person or persons out of Our allegiance and protection; and that then it shall and may be lawful, and free for all Princes or others, to prosecute with hostility such offenders, and every of them, their and every of their Procurors, Aiders, Abettors and Councillors, in that behalf. Provided also, and Our express Will and pleasure is, and We do by these presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, ordain and appoint, That these presents shall not in any manner hinder any of Our loving subjects whatsoever, from using and exercising the trade of fishing upon the coast of New-England in America; but that they, and every or any of them, shall have full and free power and liberty to continue and use the trade of fishing upon the said coast, in any of the seas thereunto adjoining, or any arms of the sea, or salt-water, rivers and creeks, where they have been accustomed to fish, and to build and set upon the waste land belonging to the said Colony and Plantations, such wharfs, stages, and work-houses as shall be necessary for the salting, drying and keeping of their fish, to be taken or gotten upon that coast. And further for the encouragement of the inhabitants of Our said Colony of Providence Plantation, to set upon the business of taking whales, it shall be lawful for them, or any of them, having struck a whale, dubertus, or other great fish, it or them to pursue unto that coast, and into any bay, river, cove, creek or shore, belonging thereto, and it or them, upon the said coast, or in the said bay, river, cove, creek or shore belonging thereto, to kill and order for the best advantage without molestation, they making no wilful waste or spoil; any thing in these presents contained, or any other matter or thing to the contrary notwithstanding. And further also, We are graciously pleased, and do hereby declare, That if any of the inhabitants of Our said Colony do set upon the planting of Vineyards, (the soil and climate both seeming naturally to concur to the production of wines) or be industrious in the discovery of fishing-banks, in or about the said Colony, We will, from time to time, give and allow all due and fitting encouragement therein, as to others in cases of like nature. And further of Our more ample grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, We have given and granted, and by these presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, do give and grant, unto the said Gover-

nor and Company of the English Colony of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantation in the Narragansett bay in New-England, in America, and to every inhabitant there, and to every person and persons trading thither, and to every such person or persons as are or shall be free of the said Colony, full power and authority, from time to time, and at all times hereafter, to take, ship, transport, and carry away, out of any of Our realms and dominions, for and towards the Plantation and defence of the said Colony, such and so many of our loving subjects and strangers, as shall or will willingly accompany them in and to their said Colony and Plantation, except such person or persons as are or shall be therein restrained by Us, Our Heirs and Successors, or any law or statute of this realm; and also to ship and transport all and all manner of goods, chattels, merchandize, and other things whatsoever, that are or shall be useful or necessary for the said Plantations, and defence thereof, and usually transported, and not prohibited by any law or statute of this Our realm; yielding and paying unto Us, Our Heirs and Successors, such the duties, customs and subsidies, as are or ought to be paid or payable for the same. And further, Our Will and Pleasure is, and We do, for us, Our Heirs and Successors, ordain, declare and grant, unto the said Governor and Company, and their Successors, That all and every the subjects of Us, Our heirs and Successors, which are already planted and settled within Our said Colony of Providence Plantations, or which shall hereafter go to inhabit within the said Colony, and all and every of their children which have been born there, or which shall happen hereafter to be born there, or on the sea going thither, or returning from thence, shall have and enjoy all liberties and immunities of free and natural subjects, within any the dominions of Us, our heirs or Successors, to all intents, constructions and purposes whatsoever, as if they and every of them were born within the realm of England. And further know ye, That We, of our more abundant grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, have given, granted and confirmed, and by these presents, for Us, Our heirs and Successors, do give, grant and confirm, unto the said Governor and Company, and their Successors, all that part of Our dominions, in New England in America, containing the Nabantick and Narhyganfett alias Narragansett Bay and countries and parts adjacent, bounded on the west, or westerly, to the middle or channel of a river there commonly called and known by the name of Pawcatuck alias Pawcatuck river, and so along the said river, as the greater or middle stream thereof reacheth or lies up into the North country, northward unto the head thereof, and from thence by a strait line drawn due north, until it meet with the south line of the Massachusetts colony, and on the north or northerly by the aforesaid south or southerly line of the Massachusetts Colony or Plantation, and extending towards the East or Eastwardly three English miles, to the East and North-East of the most Eastern and North Eastern parts of the aforesaid Narragansett Bay, as the said bay lieth or extendeth itself from the ocean on the South, or Southwardly, unto the mouth of the

river which runneth towards the town of *Providence*, and from thence along the Eastwardly side or bank of the said river (higher called by the name of *Sea-cunck* river) up to the falls called *Patucket* falls, being the most Westwardly line of *Plymouth* Colony; and so from the said falls, in a strait line due North, until it meet with the aforesaid line of the *Massachusetts* Colony, and bounded on the South by the ocean, and in particular the lands belonging to the town of *Providence*, *Patuxit*, *Warwicke*, *Misquammacock* alias *Pawcatuck*, and the rest upon the main land, in the tract aforesaid, together with *Rhode-Island*, *Blocke-Island*, and all the rest of the islands and banks in the *Narragansett* bay, and bordering upon the coast of the tract aforesaid, (*Fishers-Island* only excepted) together with all firm lands, soils, grounds, havens, ports, rivers, waters, fishings, mines royal, and all other mines, minerals, precious stones, quarries, woods, wood-grounds, rocks, slates, and all and singular other commodities, jurisdictions, royalties, privileges, franchises, pre-eminences and hereditaments whatsoever, within the said tract, bounds, lands and Islands aforesaid, to them or any of them belonging, or in any-wise appertaining, to have and to hold the same, unto the said Governor and Company, and their successors for ever, upon trust, for the use and benefit of themselves, and their associates, freemen of the said Colony, their heirs and assigns, to be holden of Us, Our heirs and Successors as of the Manor of *East-Greenwich*, in Our county of *Kent*, in free and common socage, and not *in capite*, nor by Knight's service, yielding and paying therefore to Us, Our heirs and successors, only the fifth part of all the ore of gold and silver, which from time to time, and at all times hereafter, shall be there gotten, had or obtained, in lieu and satisfaction of all services, duties, fines, forfeitures made or to be made, claims and demands whatsoever, to be to Us, Our heirs or Successors, therefore or thereout rendered, made or paid; any grant or clause, in a late grant to the Governor and Company of *Connecticut* Colony in *America*, to the contrary thereof in any wise

notwithstanding; the aforesaid *Pawcatuck* river having been yielded after much debate, for the fixed and certain bounds between these our said colonies, by the agents thereof, who have also agreed, that the said *Pawcatuck* river shall be also called alias *Narrogancett* or *Narrogansett* river, and to prevent future disputes that otherwise might arise thereby, for ever hereafter, shall be construed, deemed and taken to be the *Narrogancett* river, in our late grant to *Connecticut* Colony, mentioned as the easterly bounds of that Colony. And further, Our will and pleasure is, That in all matters of publick controversies, which may fall out between Our Colony of *Providence* plantation, to make their appeal therein to Us, Our heirs and Successors, for redress in such cases, within this Our realm of *England*; and that it shall be lawful to and for the inhabitants of the said Colony of *Providence* plantation, without lett or molestation, to pass and repass with freedom into and through the rest of the *English* Colonies, upon their lawful and civil occasions, and to converse, and hold commerce, and trade with such of the inhabitants of Our other *English* Colonies as shall be willing to admit them thereunto, they behaving themselves peaceably among them: any act, clause or sentence, in any of the said colonies provided, or that shall be provided, to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding. And lastly, We do for Us, Our heirs and Successors, ordain and grant unto the said Governor and Company, and their Successors, by these presents, That these Our letters patents shall be firm, good, effectual and available, in all things in the law, to all intents, constructions and purposes whatsoever, according to our true intent and meaning herein before declared; and shall be construed, reputed and adjudged, in all cases, most favourably on the behalf, and for the best benefit and behoof of the said Governor and Company, and their successors, although express mention, &c. In witness, &c. witness, &c.

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